

US- Pakistan Relations

(By Falik Shair Rana KIPs Karachi)

Introduction

Importance

History

- Love-hate relationship
- Early objectives of foreign policy of pak

Current position

Front line state in war against terror

Milestones in Pak-USA Relations

- 1- Liaqat Ali Khan's visit(1950)
- 2- Support to USA on Korean war(1951)
- 3- Alignment with Western Bloc
 - i. SEATO (1954)
 - ii. CenTO (1959)
- 4- Nixon's Visit (1953)
- 5- Change of American Policy (Kennedy's era)
- 6- Sino-India War 1962
"We need friends not masters"
- 7- Indo-Pak War 1965
- 8- Pak's Intermediary Role
- 9- Fall of East Pakistan
- 10- Withdrawal from SEATO
- 11- Russian Military Intervention in Afganistan(1979)
- 12- F-16 issue
- 13- Pressler Amendment
- 14- The Post Cold War world
- 15- Nuclear Tests 1998 and USA Economic Sanctions
- 16- Post Nine Eleven
- 17- War on Terror and Alqaeda Issue

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Critical Analysis/Appraisal

- 1- Pak-USA-India Trio
- 2- Pak-USA-China trio
- 3- Pakistan's loss in war against terrorism
- 4- Economic and Military Aid
- 5- Afgan situation and US-Concerns and Stance of Pakistan
- 6- Aerial Drone Attacks and Pak Concerns
- 7- IPI and US concerns
- 8- US-NATO Supply routes
- 9- ISI and US concerns
- 10- Nuclear Proliferation and Technology proliferation issues
- 11- USA, a friend when she need Pakistan

What Pakistan Should Do:

- Trade and no aid
- Investment
- Fencing durand line

Conclusion

In the historical context of US-Pakistan relations, it is obvious that the mutual relations between the two countries are based on convergence of common interests from time to time. When the US required U2 surveillance flight facilities and an intelligence base against the Soviets (1959-1968), backdoor diplomacy with the Chinese (1970-72), covert operations against the Red Army in Afghanistan (1980-88) and recently the war against terrorism (2001 - ??), it has extended its best hand forward in terms of military and economic aid as well as support for unelected military dictators. On the other hand, Pakistan during this time has had modest success in growing its economy with economic aid from the US and from the World Bank and IMF. Pakistan has performed better in achieving its goal of a nuclear balance with India with its extensive missile and nuclear programs. However, time will tell how long the present cooperation between the USA and Pakistan lasts and how much can the Pakistanis get in reward for their cooperation with US war against Osama Bin Ladin and his Al-Qaida organization.

PAKISTAN – UNITED STATES RELATIONS

Introduction

- bilateral relationship
- The United States first established diplomatic relations with Pakistan on 20 October 1947
- The relationship since then was based primarily on U.S. economic and military assistance to Pakistan
- Pakistan is a Major non-NATO ally of the United States.
- The United States is the second-largest supplier of military equipment to Pakistan after China and largest economic aid contributor as well.

1947–1971

- After Partition from India Pakistan followed a pro-western policy towards US
- Pakistan joined the U.S. led military alliances SEATO and CENTO. In 1954
- In 1954 the United States signed a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement with Pakistan.
- In 1961, Ayub Khan paid a state visit to the United States
- Pakistan had aligned itself with the United States during the Cold War, rather than with the Soviet Union
- President Richard Nixon used Pakistan's relationship with China to start secret contacts with China which resulted with Henry Kissinger's secret visit to China in July 1971 while visiting Pakistan.

1971-2001

- In 1974, with India carried out the test of nuclear weapons near the Pakistan's eastern border, codename Smiling Buddha, Bhutto sought United States to impose economic sanctions on India.
- In 1979, Russian forces invaded Afghanistan.
- In 1980 Jimmy Carter offers Pakistan to fight against Russia.
- In 1981 Regan came in power
- From 1980 to 1987 Pakistan got \$100 Billion with other Aid.
- 15th Feb 1989 Russia went out from Afghanistan
- During 1979 to 1984 Pakistan was trying to have Nuclear Bomb
- After knowing that US stopped Aid.
- In 1999 Pakistan Attack India on Kargil Issue
- In 4th July Nawaz Sharif Visit US and told by Clinton to remove its troops from Kargil.
- 1990 to 2001 No more No Aid.

Post–September 11

- After the September 11 attacks in 2001 in the United States, Pakistan became a key ally in the war on terror with the United States.
- In 2003, the U.S. officially forgave US\$1 billion in Pakistani debt in a ceremony in Pakistan as one of the rewards for Pakistan joining the U.S. war on terror.
- On 11 June 2008, a U.S. airstrike on the Afghan-Pakistani border killed 10 members of the paramilitary Frontier Corps. The Pakistani military condemned the airstrike as an act of aggression, souring the relations between the two countries
- In the November 2008 Mumbai attacks, the United States informed Pakistan that it expected full cooperation in the hunt for the plotters of the attacks.
- Osama bin Laden, then head of the militant group al-Qaeda, was killed in Pakistan on May 2, 2011
- On November 26, 2011, 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed in an aerial attack on Pakistani positions near the border. The attack further damaged U.S.-Pakistani relations with many in Pakistan calling for a more hardline stance against the United States

Military Pacts

- Pakistan was a member of the **Baghdad Pact** from its adoption in 1955, until the pact's dissolution in 1979.
- Pakistan was called the United States' "most-allied ally" in Asia
- But Pakistan was totally disappointed after Indo-Pak War in 1965 and 1971 by not getting any kind of help from U.S

Foreign Assistance Act

- In April of 1979 the United States suspended all economic assistance to Pakistan (with the exception of food assistance over concerns about Pakistan's nuclear program.

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The decision by Hilary Clinton to state that Washington was sorry for the loss of lives of the 24 Pakistani soldiers at Salala provided a fig leaf to Pakistani decision-makers to open the Ground Lines of Communication even without asking for any increase in transit fees. This also resulted in the US agreeing to release the Coalition Support Fund of over a billion dollars, thereby easing the tension somewhat and taking the two countries back to the position where their relations stood before the Salala incident. While serious disagreements on major policy issues still exist, both countries realise the importance of ensuring a cooperative relationship.

There is a widespread belief in Pakistan that the US is only interested in a transactional relationship that will last until its interest in Afghanistan remains. A more fundamental issue is whether Washington has benign or Machiavellian objectives in the region. There are many, even among the intellectual community, who think that the US is interested in deliberately destabilising Pakistan (and Afghanistan) to advance its broader strategic goals. More importantly, the widespread belief that the US plans to denuclearise Pakistan drives the security community paranoid.

Another major factor that generates insecurities within Pakistan is the Indo-US strategic partnership and the deep converging interests of the two countries in Afghanistan and the region. With the US allowing greater space to India in Afghanistan, the Pakistani establishment conjures up the worst-case scenario of a potential double encirclement by India. The India factor looms large in Pakistan's strategic calculus.

On the US side, the distrust is equally disturbing. It accuses Pakistan of duplicity — running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. For Admiral Michael Mullen to testify before the US Senate — a few days prior to his retirement — that the Haqqani network is the veritable arm of the ISI, only reflects the deep schisms and policy differences that exist.

Mutual interests, therefore, lie in removing the differences and apprehensions through candid and rational dialogue.

First, Pakistan is already facing huge challenges of instability due to rising militancy, mushrooming of radical forces, poor economic growth, corruption, institutional in-fighting and the worsening law and order situation. Surely, this is not a foreign (or US) inspired phenomenon. It is very much homegrown and the cumulative result of years of policy and governance failings. In any case, what does the US stand to gain by destabilising Pakistan? On the contrary, its interest lies in stabilising the region to ensure that there is no repeat of 9/11. Moreover, Washington's economic and strategic interests — exploitation of natural resources and enhancing influence in a geostrategic area — are best served when there is stability. As regards the nuclear factor, Washington must have contingency plans for a worst-case scenario of Pakistani nukes falling in the hands of terrorists. This is very different from assuming that the US is intrinsically after Pakistan's nuclear capability and is planning to nullify it.

On the other hand, the US allegation that Pakistan supports and provides protection to the Haqqani network and other militant groups has no valid basis. The reality is that the Pakistan military justifiably feels that any operation in North Waziristan can only be successful if there is a joint operation from both sides of the border. Furthermore, the GHQ is justified in emphasising that at a time when the US is withdrawing the bulk of its forces from Afghanistan, it is prudent to focus on negotiations rather than on opening new fronts. It is also not correct to give disproportionate importance to the Haqqanis. Moreover, in Pakistan, the right wing and religious parties who are opposed to the US presence in Afghanistan value the resistance offered by the Taliban and their associates to the US occupation, which neither the government nor the military can overlook.

Pakistan justifiably feels that Afghanistan and the US fail to own up to their failings in managing the border. How many militants of the Haqqani group have been killed or captured crossing the 200-km distance between the Pakistan-Afghan border to Kabul? Will the problems of Afghanistan go away once the Haqqani group is eliminated? The reality is that there is flow of militancy from both sides of the border and a cooperative approach would be more helpful than blaming Pakistan.

Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism and Washington overlooks this. The US indifference to Pakistan's territorial integrity is also deeply resented. In the past, drones enjoyed tacit approval of the Pakistani military and civilian leadership but are now no more politically acceptable. Their use should only be permissible if it is a joint intelligence and military operation.

In the final analysis, Pakistan and the US can minimise their policy differences if only they show greater understanding of each others' points of view and reconcile their policies that generate mutually beneficial interests. The present tangible improvement in relations provides that opportunity.

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